

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 156357
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/SOV:ABOHLN
APPROVED BY:EUR/SOV:SMCCALL
PM:MMICHAUD
S/S:DSCOTT

-----004505 201853Z /47

R 201733Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0000

S E C R E T STATE 156357

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT HELSINKI 1893 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC NASA WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC JCS WASHDC JUN 16

QUOTE S E C R E T HELSINKI 1893

EXDIS

US ASAT DELEGATION 0014

NASA FOR KRUEGER

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: ASAT TALKS: RESTRICTED MEETING, JUNE 15, 1978

1. MEETING IN RESTRICTED COMPOSITION (BUCHHEIM, YORK,
KHLESTOV, MAYORSKIY) AFTER PLENARY JUNE 15, 1978, A.M.

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2. BUCHHEIM SAID TO KHLESTOV THAT HE HAD NOTED
KHLESTOV'S REFRAINING FROM MENTION OF US COMMENTS ON
SUSPENSION OF ASAT TESTING. KHLESTOV SAID HE HAD SOME-
THING TO SAY ON THAT MATTER NOW, AND READ THE FOLLOW-
ING:

BEGIN TEXT: CONCERNING THE QUESTION PRESENTED BY

THE US DELEGATION ON THE CESSATION OF TESTS OF SPECIAL MEANS AGAINST SPACE OBJECTS, IT SEEMS TO US THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONCENTRATE ATTENTION, FIRST OF ALL, ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE GENERAL CHARACTER AND SCOPE OF A POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF HOSTILE ACTS, AGAINST SPACE OBJECTS, WHICH ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. END TEXT.

3. ABOVE TEXT IS TRANSLATION FROM VERBATIM RUSSIAN. AFTER INITIAL READING, KHLESTOV REPEATED IT TO MUROMCEW TO TAKE DOWN IN FULL.

4. AFTER KHLESTOV'S READING, BUCHHEIM TOLD KHLESTOV THAT THE US SIDE HAD SOMETHING FURTHER TO SAY ON THE IDEA OF SUSPENSION OF TESTING, NOTING THAT US STATEMENT IN PLENARY JUNE 14, 1978, HAD INCLUDED REFERENCE TO AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD OF TIME AND OTHER DETAILS. BUCHHEIM TOLD KHLESTOV THAT: (A) US HOLDS STRONG VIEW THAT ASAT COMPETITION SHOULD BE AVOIDED, BUT ALSO MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF ASYMMETRY WHICH NOW EXISTS BECAUSE OF FACT THAT USSR HAS BEEN TESTING ASAT SYSTEMS WHILE US HAS NOT; (B) US RECOGNIZES THAT THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT ASYMMETRY IS LIMITED TO SOME EXTENT BECAUSE USSR HAS TESTED ONLY UP TO SOME SECRET

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ALTITUDE "X," THUS ACQUIRING EXPERIMENTAL INFORMATION WHICH IS RELIABLE UP TO SOME ALTITUDE "Y" -- WHICH THE USSR KNOWING MORE PRECISELY THAN THE US WHAT FIGURES TO PUT DOWN FOR "X" AND "Y"; (C) THEREFORE, IF THE TWO SIDES WERE TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF A TEST SUSPENSION, THE US SIDE WOULD SUGGEST A BAN OF INDEFINITE DURATION ON ASAT TESTING AT ALTITUDES GREATER THAN "Y" AND A SUSPENSION FOR SIX MONTHS OF ASAT TESTING AT ALTITUDES LESS THAN "Y".

5. KHLESTOV ASKED IF US SIDE ENVISIONED A TEST SUSPENSION WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT ONLY TESTING IN SPACE OR WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT ALSO DEVELOPMENT AND TEST WORK IN GROUND FACILITIES AND THE AIR. BUCHHEIM SAID US SIDE WAS TALKING ABOUT ONLY AN UNDERTAKING NOT TO TEST IN SPACE AND WAS REFERRING TO DETAILS ONLY FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERIM UNDERSTANDING WHILE A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT IS BEING DEVELOPED. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE US RECOGNIZED THAT AN IMMEDIATE UNDERTAKING TO STOP DEVELOPMENT WORK IN, FOR EXAMPLE, LABORATORIES COULD NOT BE VERIFIED BY NTM AND, FURTHER, THAT THE US WAS NOT WILLING TO UNDERTAKE IN AN INTERIM

UNDERSTANDING TO SUSPEND ANY ASPECT OF ITS OWN ASAT PROGRAM OTHER THAN TESTING IN SPACE.

6. KHLESTOV ASKED IF THE US SIDE WAS GOING TO PRESENT THESE SAME DETAILS IN A PLENARY MEETING. BUCHHEIM ASKED IF KHLESTOV THOUGHT WE SHOULD. KHLESTOV SAID NO, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO. BUCHHEIM SAID HE HAD ASSUMED THAT TO BE KHLESTOV'S VIEW SINCE HE HAD REFRAINED FROM ANY MENTION IN PLENARY OF THIS SUBJECT.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT, SUBJECT TO CHANGE, IF CIRCUMSTANCES ARISE THAT CALL FOR CHANGE, THE LAST DAY OF THIS ROUND WILL BE JUNE 16, 1978.

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8. IT WAS AGREED, IN CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT IN PARA. 6, ABOVE, THAT PRESS RELEASE SHOULD BE DONE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND HELSINKI AT 10:00 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1978.

9. KHLESTOV SAID THAT PRESENT SOVIET VIEW IS THAT SECOND ROUND SHOULD BE HELD "LATE IN THIS YEAR." BUCHHEIM SAID US HAD NO DEFINITE VIEW ON TIMING AT PRESENT.

10. IT WAS AGREED THAT TIME AND PLACE FOR SECOND ROUND COULD BE FIXED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, WITH BOTH SIDES WILLING TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO MADRID AS AN ACCEPTABLE PLACE.

11. NEXT PLENARY SET FOR 4:00 P.M. JUNE 15, 1978, AT SOVIET EMBASSY. FRY. UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE156357
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SOV:ABOHLEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780257-0475
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780639/aaaabhqi.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 26934685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2277097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAT TALKS: RESTRICTED MEETING, JUNE 15, 1978
TAGS: PARM, FI
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/26934685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014